



The Ragchew W5NFL Newsletter



- Lindale * 2M (145.600 simplex with a tone of 146.2)
- Mexia * 2M (145.39 - with a tone of 146.2)
- Echolink * KD5OXM-L

- We can be Monitored via
 - <http://nflarc.org/radio.html>
 - <http://www.radioreference.com>
 - Look for
 - “Central Texas Amateur Repeaters”
 - “Navarro, Freestone, Limestone and Leon Counties Repeaters”

The NFL Amateur Radio Club

Meets the second Saturday of each month at 12:00 noon lunch and 1:00 PM Meeting at the NFLARC clubhouse, near Dobins Rd & CR1020 Corsicana



License Training Class / Testing

Thanks to the NFLARC VEs, Rebekha K5RCM and Kevin KW5MOS and Bud AD5SK that administered the testing for the Shiloh VFD/LC ARES Technicians class. It was a great success and all 8 who tested passed!

73, KG5CBD

Local News & Events

We received a nice email recently

FROM
 veronica@afterschoolcareprograms.com
 Jan 26 at 3:22 PM

Message body

E-MAIL SENT FROM NFLARC SITE
 (<http://nflarc.org/email.html>)
 Sender's Name: Veronica Taylor
 Sender's E-Mail: veronica@afterschoolcareprograms.com
 Sender's Call:
 Sender's Subject: Navarro, Freestone, Limestone, Leon Amateur Radio Club
 Message: As the program director for our community center, I just wanted to send you a quick thank you note for making your broadcasting and ham radio page - <http://nflarc.com/hamlinks.html>

We've been trying to find some fun, educational projects for the kids! One of our member's father is an amateur radio



- **The Linked Repeaters at**
 - Corsicana - 2M (145.290 + with a tone of 146.2)
 - Corsicana - 440 (442.925 - with a tone of 146.2)
 - Buffalo - 2M (147.280 + with a tone of 146.2)
 - Franklin - 2M (146.960 - with a tone of 146.2)
 - Hillsboro - 2M (146.780 - with a tone of 123.0)
 - Fairfield * 2M (145.110 * with a tone of 146.2)

operator and gave the kids a presentation. Since then, we've been working on a timeline of technology and communication! Your page has been a big help; thanks again for making it!

We also wanted to pass along this page:

'The History of Telecommunication'

<https://www.shoretel.com/history-telecommunication>

It's a fantastic reference guide that the group found. I'm sure you and your visitors would find it useful. Can you include it on your page? Let me know - I'd love to show my group! Positive encouragement goes such a long way! I meet with them tomorrow!

It would be much appreciated :)

Blessings,

Mrs. Veronica Taylor

veronica@afterschoolcareprograms.com

NFLARC Weather Nets



NFLARC Weather Net Frequencies:

- Corsicana - 2M (145.290 + with a tone of 146.2)
- Corsicana - 440 (442.925 + with a tone of 146.2)
- Buffalo - 2M (147.280 + with a tone of 146.2)
- Franklin - 2M (146.960 - with a tone of 146.2)
- Hillsboro - 2M (146.780 - with a tone of 123.0)
- Fairfield - 2M (145.110 * with a tone of 146.2)
- Lindale - 2M (145.600 simplex with a tone of 146.2)
- Mexia - 2M (145.39 - with a tone of 146.2)
- Simplex Frequency - 146.500 MHz
- Echolink - KD5OXM-L

ARES Net



Limestone ARES Group

ARES group for Limestone Co.

List their Coms plan as follows:

- Repeaters
 - Mexia Repeater 145.39 – Primary
 - Corsicana Repeater 145.29 – Secondary
- Simplex
 - 146.500 FM Primary
 - 146.550 FM Secondary
 - 147.550 FM Texas State Guard Freq

They will have a weekly net on Tuesday Nights 8PM on simplex for now

World News & Event

Gender Imbalance in Amateur / Ham Radio?

Is the term “YL” outdated?

In a thought provoking article Yvette Cendes (KB3HTS) highlights the serious gender imbalance in amateur radio. She notes fewer than 15% of US hams are women and says, “Ham radio is not terribly good at making women feel like they belong in the field. I have long ago lost count how many patronizing comments I got in QSOs and “creepy old guy” comments”.

Regarding the century-old term “YL” Yvette says: being called a YL is starting to feel really patronizing and condescending to me, in a way related to calling a grown man “boy.”

Full Story -

https://www.reddit.com/r/amateurradio/comments/3zqkb1/on_gender_imbalances_in_ham_radio_and_why_i_will/

Netherlands Low-Power AM Broadcasting

After switching off a number of high power transmitters in 2015, at the end of December the Dutch government has launched a public consultation on ‘opening up’ the medium waveband for radio and non-radio applications with 'low power' and with limited government regulation.

The “low power” operation will be limited to between 1-5 watts from the site coverage, and between 50-100 watts in municipal coverage. It is hoped that the same frequencies will be available across the whole of the Netherlands.

Ydun's Medium Wave Info -

<http://mediumwave.info/news.html>

Amateur Radio St Patrick's Day Award

Amateur / Ham Radio operators are encouraged to get on air and go green this St Patrick's Day (17th March) and achieve the annual St Patrick's Day Award.

The sole aim of this one day award is to enjoy the festivities and connect with other stations across the world.

The award, in it's third year, is open to everyone in the amateur community.

Details and / or to register a station for the day - <http://stpatrickaward.webs.com/>

LED Bulbs Tested for Electromagnetic Interference

The Swedish national amateur radio society SSA have produced a report detailing measurements taken of the RF interference generated by 11 different types of LED lamps.

Only one, 38-23717, exceeded the EN 55015 limit. This has been reported to the Swedish Safety Board.

New EMC measurements on LEDs (Google English) - <http://tinyurl.com/SSA-LED-EMI-2015>

PDF's of the Conducted EMI Test Reports - <http://www.ssa.se/sektioner/emc/led-produkter-som-ssa-anmalt-till-elsakerhetsverket/>

Ham Radio public service activities – rewarding and useful

Rud Merriam K5RUD writes on Hackaday about the public service aspect of amateur radio

Public service events generally use repeaters to cover the area of the event. They are also used during emergency operations. Or some small events may just use simplex — direct radio-to-radio connections.

A typical race or ride is many miles in length. Along the route there will be rest stops or break points where the participants get drinks and food – literally on the run for a marathon or Iron Man event. Each break point needs a ham in case of problems with the setup of the area or participant mishaps. If a participant is having a medical problem emergency services provided by the event organization need to be notified.

The amateur-developed Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) is frequently used to track vehicles as they travel along the course.

Read the full story at

<http://hackaday.com/2016/01/15/ham-radio-public-service-activities-rewarding-and-useful/>

Summer QRP contest

The SARL's **Summer QRP Contest** runs from 12:00 to 15:00 UTC on Saturday 23 January 2016 using SSB and CW with 5 watts (PEP) output or less.

There are no antenna restrictions and a station may be worked only once per band per mode.

The first hour is limited to the 40 m band only, the remaining two hours the testers are free to use any HF (non-WARC) band as they see fit.

The exchange is a RS or RST report and your grid locator and each contact counts 1 point.

Each South African call area 0 to 9 counts as a multiplier and each DXCC country worked counts as a multiplier. The station type multiplier is x 1 - for home stations; x 2 - for portable stations and x 3 - for ultra light portable field stations. Logs, in ADIF, Cabrillo or MS Excel format and labelled "your call sign QRP Contest," must be submitted by 31 January 2016 by e-mail to contest<at>sarl.org.za. A photo(s) of the station operating, in JPG format, must accompany every log entry.

Ramsey Kits Department Bites the Dust

For more than 4 decades, the name Ramsey Kits has been synonymous with some of the neatest and the greatest electronic products and hobby kits for the do-it-yourself hobbyist. In those 40+ years, we always thought “outside the box” when we designed a new kit, making us known worldwide as the number one hobby kit manufacturer. Back in the early 70's it all started with the infamous “LED Blinky Kit” as our first kit. As the standard first kit sold to schools, scouting groups, and individuals, that one single kit became the very first electronic soldering kit experience for hundreds of thousands of hobbyists. And from that very first kit with only 10 components in it, the 16 page manual was written to delve deep into the circuit to cover how and why it works, in a fun and very easy to understand format. This practice followed over all these years, some 311 products later, earning us praise from everyone from teachers, educators, and engineers, to school children, scouts, and do-it-yourself hobbyists. While our Hobby Kit Group was busy churning out the kits and products you've become so familiar with, our Professional RF Test Equipment Group was busy achieving similar milestones in that industry. From the largest manufacturer of RF pager test equipment, the world's largest pager test training school, the world standard for cost effective communications service monitors, to our patented RF Isolated Test Enclosures, Ramsey Test has become equally synonymous as the most trusted RF Test Enclosure manufacturer worldwide. The rapid changes in technologies have made it difficult for the do-it-yourself hobbyist. You just

don't go out and build yourself an 802.11ac wireless router these days! You buy one at the corner big-box store for fifty bucks! One of my favorite kits I personally built was a 25" Heathkit GR295 color TV! It was considered ahead of its time for TV's, and you had to build it. You just can't do that today either.

Therefore, following our well respected predecessors like Heathkit, KnightKit, Eico, and others in the past, we are discontinuing our Hobby Kit Group January 1, 2016. We are extremely proud of our 4 decade heritage of being the leading hobby kit manufacturer worldwide, and consider it an honor that we helped hundreds of thousands of hobbyists make their entry into electronics. We end our heritage with a smile, not a frown, and say thank you, to all our customers and fellow hobbyists. For our existing Hobby Kit customers, for hobby kits purchased through the end of 2015, our premier tech and warranty support will continue as usual throughout the 2016 warranty period. To help our Hobby Kit customers obtain some great deals in remaining hobby kit inventory, it has been relocated to Amazon's fulfillment warehouses, and may be purchased directly at Amazon where you can take advantage not only of low close-out prices, but of their free 2nd day delivery with your Prime membership. The Ramsey Test RF Test Equipment Group is unaffected by this change, and remains to be the leader in RF isolation test equipment throughout the wireless industry

FCC adds complaint area for RFI on new web site

The FCC at the ARRL's request has added an RFI complaint area on the new FCC web site. See: <http://www.arrl.org/news/redesigned...easy-for-hams-to-file-interference-complaints>

The following is from the new owner of TEN-TEC

As some of you may be aware, Dishtronix has purchased the assets (but not the liabilities) of Ten Tec from RKR Designs. I had desired to keep this under wraps until Ten Tec is reorganized, but there is too much speculation concerning the service department to continue without an announcement of some sort.

There is a myriad of things that must be accomplished before everything is formalized. Unfortunately these things must be done before we can continue with jobs that were sent in for repair to RKR. At this time I would ask people to be patient and please do not call or email me about your repair. When we get the phone numbers transferred successfully or new phone numbers we will post them. As we progress with the change, someone will contact you about your repair. When service resumes we will be contacting the repair customers.

As some of you may be aware I have been looking at all aspects of operation of the company and restructuring operations has been necessary. In reviewing the service department accounts, it is apparent that some customers use the service department to diagnose the radio and elect to not proceed with the repair. Unfortunately this open door policy costs the company one hour of billable time to receive, unpack, open, diagnose, provide an estimate and repack a radio for return to the customer.

Effective immediately, all radios including those sent in to RKR, will incur a 140.00 minimum charge to look at a radio, even if it is not repaired. Service time is 125 per hour with the average repair requiring from one to two hours. This means you can expect to pay at least 265.00 plus parts and return shipping for any repair.

For customers who sent radios in to RKR which were not repaired, who object to these terms, we will return your unit to you at your expense.

A second problem in the service department is with the time technicians spend on the telephone that quite often ends up having nothing to do with the Ten Tec product but is some other station deficiency. The problem here is Ten Tec is not compensated for that time, yet Ten Tec pays wages to the technician. When the service department resumes operation, Ten Tec will charge the customer for any telephone call or email that consumes more than five minutes of technician time. That time will be billed in quarter hour increments at the prevailing service rate.

I am fully committed to bring Ten Tec back to a sustainable state. This will take some time. Please give us time to finalize these plans since there are so many business related issues to get through. We will definitely need to rely on you as customers to help continue the Ten Tec tradition of innovative product and cutting edge technology.

Realtime Band Conditions Website

The purpose of a new experimental Web site is to provide actual realtime band condition information to CW QRPP, QRPe and CW/SSB for Contesters interested in increasing their scores.

It can also be of benefit to other Radio Amateurs to determine band conditions for Nets and casual QSO's.

This information is NOT based on any software predictions or any kind of satellite based readings. It is based on a new Ionospheric sounding method called "HF Ionospheric Interferometry" which operates very similarly to the PolSAR system used by NASA.

More information - <http://www.bandconditions.com>

Australian Radio Ham Celebrates 105 years

Believed to be the oldest active radio amateur in Australia, Darcy Hancock VK5RJ recently celebrated his 105th birthday. This great milestone at an Adelaide hotel was with family and friends including two great grand-children.

We learn that Darcy is still having regular contacts with the group on 80 metres in the mornings and afternoons on most days.

ARRL Lodges Glow Light Complaint

The ARRL has taken action over the sale of 'grow lights' which can cause interference across the HF spectrum



The ARRL has again complained to the FCC to allege illegal marketing of electronic RF lighting ballasts, operating under Part 18 of the Commission's rules, on the part of two major retailers. Letters went out this week to the FCC Enforcement Bureau and its Office of Engineering and Technology claiming Part 18 marketing regulations violations by Lowe's and by Walmart stores. At issue is the sale of non-consumer RF lighting ballasts to consumers who, in several instances, were told by store personnel that it was okay to install these in a residential setting. In addition, non-consumer and residential-class ballasts are intermixed in store displays with inadequate signage to direct consumers to the correct choice. Both letters asked the FCC to investigate and commence enforcement proceedings with respect to the two stores' marketing and retail sale of RF lighting devices in the US. "ARRL has received numerous complaints from Amateur Radio operators of significant noise in the medium (MF) and high frequency (HF) bands between 1.8 MHz and 30 MHz from 'grow lights' and other Part 15 and part 18 RF lighting devices," ARRL Chief Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, continued. "These devices are easily capable of emitting RF noise sufficient to preclude Amateur Radio MF and HF communications (and, as well, AM broadcast station reception) throughout entire communities." The ARRL has asked that all non-consumer devices be removed from retail sale and marketing at the stores and to track and recall non-consumer devices already sold to consumers.

Read the full ARRL story at

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-again-complains-to-fcc-about-illegal-marketing-of-electronic-lighting-ballasts>

Global Wind Pattern Indicator

A free website application is available for Amateur / Ham Radio operators to show the current direction and force of wind.

The resource can be found at -

<http://earth.nullschool.net/#current/wind/isobaric/1000hPa>

No 60m Operation Possible in VK

Amateur / Ham Radio Operators in Australia are struggling to gain access to the 60m band currently being enjoyed by many amateurs throughout the world.

The recent World Radiocommunication Conference provided the framework for the band, however amateur radio operators in Australia have found existing use in the 5mhz from users of land-mobile and defence licences.

The Australian Communications and Media (ACMA) is aware of the decision made by WRC-15 at Geneva, and expects future discussion on it with the Wireless Institute of Australia.

Until the ACMA agrees through the Australian Radiofrequency Spectrum Plan or the Licence Condition Determination, no VK radio amateur is allowed to use those frequencies.

There is now only limited access to spot frequencies on 5 MHz by WICEN (emergency communications) and the Amateur Radio New South Wales broadcast, but these are under their land-mobile licences and call signs.

Transmitting by radio amateurs in Australia on 5 MHz is illegal, until the ACMA gives its approval.

History

Original Corsicana 29 Repeater



Going through some old photos. Found this one which I believe to be of the original N5ALA Corsicana Repeater getting ready to go up on Lloyd Huffman's tower.

Pictured is Alan Wilson (N5ALA) the trustee and technical guru on left (now deceased), and Mike Cox (N5GMF) the tower guy (right) at the time.

As far as I know Mike still has a valid license, but not active. Thought you might like to post this to the club, since this was the beginning. I took the photo, but not sure of the date.

Bill Dosser - KE5YA

Thanks Bill

If you would like to share Photos & or Stories, send them to ragchew@nflarc.org

Members "Year Book" style Photo Album in the Forum

NFLARC Members should have access to this Featured Album - 249 items
<http://nflarc.org/smf/index.php?action=media:sa=album:in=62>

If not email me and I will fix it.

Taken from the membership Roster and known or online photos that could be found of our members.

Creating this I found it looks a lot like a year book.

170 W5TSM TRACEY MONNEYHAN Views: 2 Sep 27, 2015	171 K5VBB T I M & KIM COFER Views: 2 Sep 27, 2015	172 K5TBD TERESA "TERRY" LA F... Views: 1 Sep 27, 2015	173 K5SWRQ STEPHEN TRANHAM Views: 1 Sep 27, 2015	174 K5JW MICHAEL THETFORD Views: 1 Sep 27, 2015
175 K5DFY DAN HARRINGTON Views: 5 Sep 25, 2015	176 K5CDK Doug Smith Views: 3 Aug 06, 2011	177 K5JSS DENNIS NORTHAM Views: 1 Sep 27, 2015	177 K5OGB CARRIE NORTHAM Views: 2 Sep 27, 2015	178 JESSIE R. WHISTLER Views: 1 Sep 27, 2015
179 K5DDG DARYL GUINN Views: 1 Sep 27, 2015	180 K5JFC JIM CALVERY Views: 1 Sep 27, 2015	181 ? Views: 1 Sep 27, 2015	182 K5KVF LEONARD LANIER Views: 1 Sep 27, 2015	183 K5KOH JAMES MILLER Views: 1 Sep 27, 2015

If you have corrections, photos of missing people posted here, please send them to ragchew@nflarc.org

include photo attachment and their call sign and name if known
 73
 Doug KE5CDK

New Gear

Expert Electronics MB1 arrives at Europe's Ham Store
 The new Expert electronics MB1 arrived in Europe today at Europe's Hamstore.



The MB1 is a hybrid SDR transceiver which provides state-of-the-art SDR technology within a traditional radio chassis. The MB1 covers 160 to 6m and also has a bonus band, 2m! With 2 antenna sockets for VHF and 4 antenna sockets for HF, it is not short of connectivity/Expandability options either. The huge display is also a touch screen for easy operation and selection alternative settings
 Checkout the short video of release version of the MB1 below or visit Europe's Ham Store for a demonstration!
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/fh46ycwjk2df3hc/2016-02-02%2017.54.37.mp4?dl=0>
<http://wspic.com/mb1-sdr-transceiver.html>

Ham Software



I have a few announcements to share...

Upgrades to the Following Contesting Programs are Now Available!

I've made the following minor enhancements to these programs:

ARRL Field Day Contest Log 4.8: Delta stations worked by other Delta stations are no longer included in the QSO point total. Those operating in the Delta class will still have to remove the Delta stations worked from your log before creating your submission (click File > Remove Delta Stations to easily do so). If you aren't planning to operate in the Delta class for Field Day 2016, staying with Field Day Contest Log version 4.7 is fine.

<http://www.n3fjp.com/fieldday.html>

South Carolina In State and Out of State 1.4: Updated to calculate bonus station multipliers.

<http://www.n3fjp.com/stateqsoparty.html>

ARRL November Sweepstakes Contest Log 5.9: Displays bearing and miles, which updates when you enter the section.

ARRL 10 Meter Contest Log 4.8: Unworked states and provinces turn green when spotted (like the Sweepstakes software does). Click on the spot to tune your rig to the spot frequency (with rig interface enabled).

As always, upgrades are free to registered users!

ARRL National Parks on the Air (NPOTA)!

NPOTA (<https://npota.arrl.org/>) is off and running! Lots of folks are quite enthusiastic about this year long event and asking:

Can I use Amateur Contact Log for ARRL's National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) 2016 event?

You'll find that answer on my web site here:

<http://www.n3fjp.com/faq.html#q84>

Here is text from that FAQ:

Like ARRL's Centennial QSO Party in 2014, scoring for NPOTA is handled by ARRL's Log Book of the World (LoTW). Amateur Contact Log worked just fine the ARRL

Centennial QSO Party and it will be fine for NPOTA in 2016 too. NPOTA scoring is handled by upload to LoTW and Amateur Contact Log has all the features you need for that.

To keep your NPOTA score updated, you only have to upload the NPOTA QSO to LoTW, just as you would any other QSO record. LoTW will determine and confirm the units you work based on the activating station, which he will upload to LoTW as soon as practical after the activation. You can see your score and the leader board by logging into LoTW.

It isn't necessary to track the NPOTA units you work in AC Log since LoTW is performing that function, but you can always use one of the Other fields to do that too if you like. To display and customize the location of an additional Other Field, click Settings > Edit Fields Displayed. To Rename an Other Field, click Settings > Other Field Titles and Fill Behavior.

As a chaser, just log the QSO normally and upload to LoTW. If you are an activator, the 2016 release of TQSL 2.2.x will allow users to create station locations that include an NPS unit. Users will not have to request additional call sign certificates for the NPOTA event unless they operate from an NPS unit using a portable identifier, such as W3IZ/4, in which case they can simply use TQSL to request a signed call sign certificate for the appended call sign.

Amateur Radio Parity Act - This Literally Takes About 60 Seconds, So Please Do This Now!

You all know the importance of a successful outcome for the Amateur Radio Parity Act. Here is your chance to help, it is free, completely automated and it couldn't be easier!

EVERYONE, whether you are antenna restricted or not, this literally only takes about 60 seconds, so please take one minute now and do this:

<https://arrl.rallycongress.net/ctas/urge-congress-to-support-amateur-radio-parity-act>

Now, please tell your other radio friends to do the same!

The ability to improve everyone's station is in ALL of our interests - more folks enjoying radio AND better signals to copy!

BUY, SELL, or SWAP

Hamfests & Events

03/12/2016 | WCARC Swapfest and License Testing
 Location: Georgetown, TX
 Type: ARRL Hamfest
 Sponsor: Williamson County ARC
 Website: <http://wcarc.com>

03/05/2016 | Irving ARC, Inc. Hamfest
 Location: Irving, TX
 Type: ARRL Hamfest
 Sponsor: Irving Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
 Website: <http://www.irvingarc.org>

03/12/2016 | WCARC Swapfest and License Testing
 Location: Georgetown, TX
 Type: ARRL Hamfest
 Sponsor: Williamson County ARC
 Website: <http://wcarc.com>

03/18/2016 | South Texas Section Convention (Greater Houston Hamfest)
 Location: Rosenberg, TX
 Type: ARRL Convention
 Sponsor: Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club
 Website: <http://www.houstonhamfest.org/>

03/19/2016 | West Texas Section Convention (St. Patrick's Day Hamfest)
 Location: Midland, TX
 Type: ARRL Convention
 Sponsor: Midland Amateur Radio Club
 Website: <http://hamfest.w5qgg.org>

04/16/2016 | HamEXPO
 Location: Belton, TX
 Type: ARRL Hamfest
 Sponsor: Temple Amateur Radio Club
 Website: <http://tarc.org/hamexpo/>

08/05/2016 | Texas State Convention (Austin Summerfest 2016)
 Location: Austin, TX
 Type: ARRL Convention
 Sponsor: Austin ARC & Texas VHF-FM Society
 Website: <http://www.austinsummerfest.org>

NFLARC Weekly Information Net

Net meets every Wednesday night at 9:00 PM local time

- The Linked Repeaters at
 - Corsicana - 2M (145.290 + with a tone of 146.2)
 - Corsicana - 440 (442.925 - with a tone of 146.2)
 - Buffalo - 2M (147.280 + with a tone of 146.2)
 - Franklin - 2M (146.960 - with a tone of 146.2)
 - Hillsboro - 2M (146.780 - with a tone of 123.0)
 - Fairfield * 2M (145.110 * with a tone of 146.2)
 - Lindale * 2M (145.600 simplex with a tone of 146.2)
 - Mexia * 2M (145.39 - with a tone of 146.2)
- Echolink * KD5OXM-L
- We can be Monitored via
 - <http://nflarc.org/radio.html>
 - <http://www.radioreference.com>
 - "Central Texas Amateur Repeaters"
 - "Navarro, Freestone, Limestone and Leon Counties Repeaters"

Net Control Schedule

- January
 - 06 Wil / Rebekah
 - 13 Michael / Doug
 - 20 Rebekah / Wil
 - 27 Wil / Rebekah
- February
 - 3 Michael / Doug
 - 10 Rebekah / Wil
 - 17 Wil / Rebekah
 - 24 Michael / Doug

If you would like to learn or practice being net control, contact us here <http://nflarc.org/email.html>

Other Area Nets

- **HF**
 - 10 mtrs Tues 8:00p 28.437 + or - W5DXS net
 - 40 mtrs M-Sat 10:00-noon 1:00-2:00p Sat 10:00a-noon 7.290
 - 80 mtrs 24/7 6:30p SW Traffic Net 3.873
 - 80 mtrs 24/7 8:00p-9:00 Gulf Coast Hurricane Net 3.935
- **U/VHF**
 - **Daily-**
 - 4:00 a -an informal net on 146.580 Simplex every morning, Come and visit with the bunch!
 - **Mon-**
 - 7:00p 146.82 and Waco area 146.660 linked Temple ARC
 - 8:00p 145.150 Hotarc Bakers Dozen Training net (WX Net)
 - **Tue-**
 - 7:00p -147.180 Bosque County ARC Round Table Net
 - 7:30p 147.180 Pink HAMster net
 - 7:30 P. M The 2-meter SSB group is using 144.200 USB on Tuesday nights.

- 8:30p- 147.24 (97.4 tone) Slo-scan Emergency Preparedness Net
- 9:00p- 147.140, 97.4 SlowScan-ATV Talkabout Net
- 10:00p 147.360 PL Tone 110.9 Tarlton Area ARC
- **Weds.**
- 7:30 p.m. W5TSG Emergency Relay Net SIMPLEX . 147.550 All checkins during the 7:30 net will have an opportunity to make comments on the 8:00 p.m. net
- 8:00 p.m. W5TSG Traffic and Training Net 147.320 with a tone of + 123
- 8:00pm ON THE LAST WEDS. OF THE MONTH ON 145.31 TONE 123 THE W5TSG TRAFFIC AND TRAINING NET. All licensed radio operators are welcome to check in. Bud AD5SK Net Control
- 9:00p- 146.78 Quad County net (NFLARC Linked repeaters)
- 9:00 PM Metroplex AMSAT- Arlington ARC Repeater 147.14+, 110.9 Hz Tone
- **Thurs.**
- 7:00p 146.62 tone 123.0 LWARS Training Net
 - (not linked on NFLARC per LWARC request)
- 8:00p 147.14 Central Texas ARC Net (WX Net)
- 8:00p 145.310, 123.0 Central Texas Amateur Radio Net
- **Sun.**
- 7:30p 444.00 tone 136.5 and 145.45 tone 88.5 Johnson County ARC (Cleburne)

NFLARC Meeting Time: 1:00pm - 3:00pm

November 12, 2016

NFLARC Lunch Time: 12:00pm - 1:00pm

NFLARC Meeting Time: 1:00pm - 3:00pm

December 10, 2016

NFLARC Lunch Time: 12:00pm - 1:00pm

NFLARC Meeting Time: 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Other Area Club Meetings

- All-Ham Breakfast
 - Every Sat.9:00am GRIFFS at China Spring Road & Wortham Bend Road in China Spring. Come join your fellow hams every Saturday morning.
- Bosque County ARC
 - 2nd Sat. 6:30pm Johnny's Café on HWY. 6 In Clifton
 - VEC team there to give a test or upgrade at 5:30 each meeting
- Central Texas ARC
 - 1st Tues. 7:00pm Belton EOC
- HOTARC
 - 4th Thurs. 7:00pm W5NCD Workshop 12772 Chapel Rd., Lorena
- Lake Whitney ARS
 - 3rd Sat. 10:00am Whitney Fire Department
- Temple ARC
 - 1st Thurs. 7:00pm Western Hills Church of Christ Adams & I-35, Temple
- W5TSG ARC
 - 2nd Monday 6:30pm TSGARC Clubhouse 3292 Speegleville Road, Waco
- Tarleton Area ARC
 - 1st Tuesday of each month Stephenville (also a 70cm repeater available 444.775 PL tone 88.5)
- CCARC - Cedar Creek Amateur Radio Club
 - Second Saturday of each month at the [Mabank Cafe, 301 N. 3rd. Street in Mabank.](#)
 - Their meeting room is a no-smoking area for us all morning.

NFLARC Scheduled Club Meetings

February 13, 2016

NFLARC Lunch Time: 12:00pm - 1:00pm

NFLARC Meeting Time: 1:00pm - 3:00pm

March 12, 2016

NFLARC Lunch Time: 12:00pm - 1:00pm

NFLARC Meeting Time: 1:00pm - 3:00pm

April 9, 2016

NFLARC Lunch Time: 12:00pm - 1:00pm

NFLARC Meeting Time: 1:00pm - 3:00pm

May 14, 2016

NFLARC Lunch Time: 12:00pm - 1:00pm

NFLARC Meeting Time: 1:00pm - 3:00pm

June 11, 2016

NFLARC Lunch Time: 12:00pm - 1:00pm

NFLARC Meeting Time: 1:00pm - 3:00pm

July 9, 2016

NFLARC Lunch Time: 12:00pm - 1:00pm

NFLARC Meeting Time: 1:00pm - 3:00pm

August 13, 2016

NFLARC Lunch Time: 12:00pm - 1:00pm

NFLARC Meeting Time: 1:00pm - 3:00pm

September 10, 2016

NFLARC Lunch Time: 12:00pm - 1:00pm

NFLARC Meeting Time: 1:00pm - 3:00pm

October 8, 2016

NFLARC Lunch Time: 12:00pm - 1:00pm

Contest Calendar

February 2016	
+ Iranian Ham Radio Contest	0000Z, Feb 1 to 2359Z, Feb 11
+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	2000Z-2130Z, Feb 1
+ ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Feb 2
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 3
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 3
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Feb 3 and 1900Z-2000Z, Feb 3 and 0300Z-0400Z, Feb 4
+ UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Feb 3
+ NRAU 10m Activity Contest	1800Z-1900Z, Feb 4 (CW) and 1900Z-2000Z, Feb 4 (SSB) and 2000Z-2100Z, Feb 4

	(FM) and 2100Z-2200Z, Feb 4 (Dig)
± NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Feb 5
± QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 5
± NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 5
± YLRL YL-OM Contest	1400Z, Feb 5 to 0200Z, Feb 7
± Vermont QSO Party	0000Z, Feb 6 to 2400Z, Feb 7
± Triathlon DX Contest	0000Z-0759Z, Feb 6 (CW) and 0800Z-1559Z, Feb 6 (SSB) and 1600Z-2359Z, Feb 6 (RTTY)
± 10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB	0001Z, Feb 6 to 2359Z, Feb 7
± Black Sea Cup International	1200Z, Feb 6 to 1159Z, Feb 7
± F9AA Cup, CW	1200Z, Feb 6 to 1200Z, Feb 7
± Minnesota QSO Party	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 6
± FYBO Winter QRP Sprint	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 6
± British Columbia QSO Party	1600Z, Feb 6 to 0400Z, Feb 7
± AGCW Straight Key Party	1600Z-1900Z, Feb 6
± FISTS Winter Slow Speed Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, Feb 6
± Mexico RTTY International Contest	1800Z, Feb 6 to 1759Z, Feb 7
± North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 7
± ARRL School Club Roundup	1300Z, Feb 8 to 2359Z, Feb 12
± NAQCC CW Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Feb 19
± QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 10
± Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 10
± CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Feb 10 and 1900Z-2000Z, Feb 10 and 0300Z-0400Z, Feb 11
± RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	2000Z-2130Z, Feb 10
± NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Feb 12
± QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 12
± NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 12
± CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	0000Z, Feb 13 to 2359Z, Feb 14
± SARL Field Day Contest	1000Z, Feb 13 to 1000Z, Feb 14
± Asia-Pacific Spring Sprint, CW	1100Z-1300Z, Feb 13
± KCJ Topband Contest	1200Z, Feb 14 to 1200Z,

	Feb 15
± SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Feb 13 to 2400Z, Feb 14
± Dutch PACC Contest	1200Z, Feb 13 to 1200Z, Feb 14
± OMISS QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 13 to 1500Z, Feb 14
± New Hampshire QSO Party	1600Z, Feb 13 to 2200Z, Feb 14
± FISTS Winter Unlimited Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, Feb 13
± RSGB 1st 1.8 MHz Contest	1900Z-2300Z, Feb 13
± PODXS 070 Club Valentine Sprint	0000Z-2359Z, Feb 14
± Balkan HF Contest	1200Z-1800Z, Feb 14
± Classic Exchange, Phone	1400Z, Feb 14 to 0800Z, Feb 15 and 1400Z, Feb 16 to 0800Z, Feb 17
± QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 17
± Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 17
± CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Feb 17 and 1900Z-2000Z, Feb 17 and 0300Z-0400Z, Feb 18
± AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening	1900Z-2030Z, Feb 17
± RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	2000Z-2130Z, Feb 18
± NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Feb 19
± QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 19
± NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 19
± ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Feb 20 to 2400Z, Feb 21
± SARL Youth Day Sprint	0800Z-1000Z, Feb 20
± Russian PSK WW Contest	1200Z, Feb 20 to 1159Z, Feb 21
± Feld Hell Sprint	2000Z-2159Z, Feb 20
± AWA Amplitude Modulation QSO Party	2300Z, Feb 20 to 2300Z, Feb 21
± CQC Winter QSO Sprint	0100Z-0259Z, Feb 22
± Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Feb 22
± SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Feb 24
± QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 24
± Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 24
± CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Feb 24 and 1900Z-2000Z, Feb 24 and 0300Z-0400Z, Feb 25
± UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Feb 24
± NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Feb 26
± QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 26
± NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 26
± CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	2200Z, Feb 26 to 2200Z,

	Feb 28
± REF Contest, SSB	0600Z, Feb 27 to 1800Z, Feb 28
± UBA DX Contest, CW	1300Z, Feb 27 to 1300Z, Feb 28
± South Carolina QSO Party	1400Z, Feb 27 to 0059Z, Feb 28
± North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Feb 27 to 0559Z, Feb 28
± High Speed Club CW Contest	0900Z-1100Z, Feb 28 and 1500Z-1700Z, Feb 28
± SARL Digital Contest	1300Z-1600Z, Feb 28
± North Carolina QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 28 to 0059Z, Feb 29

All transmitters and receivers fitted with rifle sights for visual alignment

Amateur Satellite



DX News



New UK Distance Record on 134 GHz

Ian Lamb G8KQW and John Hazell G8ACE have successfully broken the UK distance contact record with a contact using CW on 134GHz extending the existing UK 134GHz distance record to 35.6km.

This exceptional contact was made over a Line Of Sight (LOS) path from Chute Causeway (IO91FH20DP) near Andover to Cheesefoot Head (IO91JB00NV) near Winchester. The existing 19.2km UK distance record on 134GHz was set by G8KQW and G8ACE on 20th September 2015.

Millimeter bands (24GHz and above) suffer losses due to oxygen and water vapour. Whilst there is nothing we can do to mitigate attenuation due to oxygen, the attenuation due to water vapour reduces in line with Dew Point Temperature (DPT) therefore operating on a very cold winter day would yield minimal water vapour attenuation.

The key enabler for success on this extended distance record contact was lower path loss due to less water vapour attenuation, DPT on 16th January 2016 was -1c whereas on 20th September 2015 it was 14.3c. The reduction in water vapour attenuation between the two tests was sufficient to overcome the ~9db increase in free space path loss attenuation over the 35.6km path.

Equipment used,
 Transmitters: ~100 microwatts output Receivers: Sub-harmonic diode mixers with no RF amplification
 Antennas: 0.3m dishes ~47dBi gain

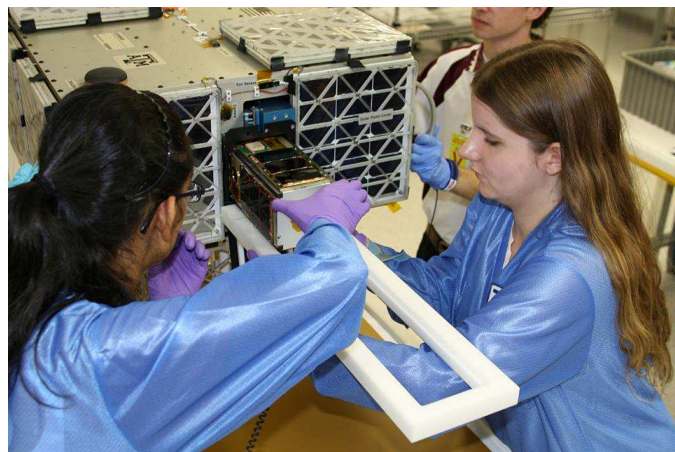


An Unlikely Pair of Satellites

Dr Helen Reed KD7GPX is interviewed in a NASA story about the AggieSat4 and Bevo-2 satellites which were deployed on January 29

Students from Texas A&M University and The University of Texas came together for the LONESTAR investigation.

This collaborative effort sent a pair of satellites, **AggieSat4** and **Bevo-2**, to the International Space Station. The satellites were deployed from the space station on January 29, and AggieSat4 will eject Bevo-2 as part of a demonstration of technology with applications for future space exploration.



Students working on AggieSat4 and Bevo-2 satellites - Credit Texas A&M University / Dexter Becklund

The two satellites will demonstrate communication protocols between them and with ground stations, as well as systems that allow the satellites to navigate through space and relative to each other and to orient themselves in three dimensions. Flight demonstration of these abilities, necessary for unmanned craft to be able to rendezvous and dock in space without direct human intervention, will contribute to future satellite missions as well.

“The overall objective is to find ways for small spacecraft to join together autonomously in space,” said Dr. Helen Reed, KD7GPX, professor of aerospace engineering and director of the AggieSat Lab at Texas A&M. “We need simple systems that will allow rendezvous and docking with little to no help from a human, which will become especially important as we venture farther out into space. Applications could include in-space assembly or reconfiguration of larger structures or systems as well as servicing and repair.”

Small satellites are less expensive to build and investigators can more easily find space on rocket launches to send them into orbit, but it does take creative thinking to design a functioning satellite with smaller volume and less power. Bevo-2 is 13.3 inches long, 5.3 inches high and 5.3 inches wide, about the size of a loaf of bread. AggieSat4 measures 24 by 24 by 12 inches, slightly larger than a piece of carry-on luggage. Together the satellites weigh 114 pounds.

Read the full story at http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/research/unlikely-pair-of-satellites.html

For Your Information

- NFLARC Club Dues are due every May

Ham Radio Glossary

N

National Electrical Code -- A set of guidelines governing electrical safety, including antennas.

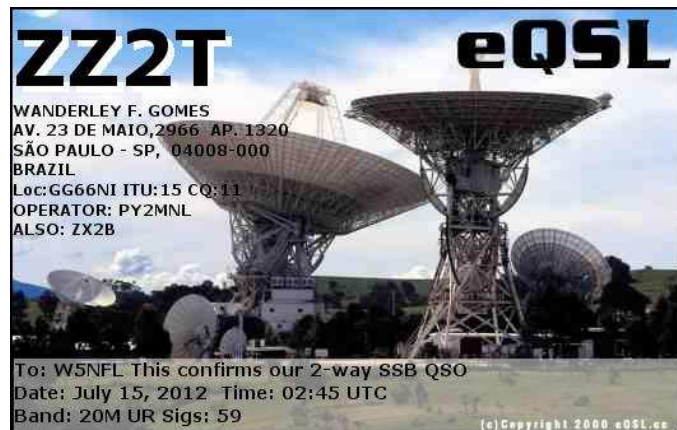
Network -- A term used to describe several packet stations linked together to transmit data over long distances.

Nonionizing radiation -- Electromagnetic radiation that does not have sufficient energy to knock electrons free from their atoms. Radio frequency (RF) radiation is nonionizing.

NPN transistor -- A transistor that has a layer of P-type semiconductor material sandwiched between layers of N-type

semiconductor material.

QSL Card



Web Links



<http://qrznow.com/>



<http://new.dxsummit.fi/#/>



<http://www.qrz.com/>



<http://www.repeaterbook.com>



<http://www.southgatearc.org/index.htm>



<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>



<http://icqpodcast.com/>



WIA - <http://www.wia.org.au/>



South African Radio League (SARL) - <http://www.sarl.org.za/>



<http://www.grapevineamateurradio.com/>



<http://www.n3fjp.com>

The Spectrum Monitor



Online magazine

<http://www.thespectrummonitor.com/index.aspx>

Silent Keys



2015-2016 Officers

- President:** Doug S - KE5CDK
- Vice President:** Rodger W - W5UOK
- Secretary:** Rebekah M - K5RCM
- Treasurer:** James S - KD5OXM
- Director (1yr):** Mary S - KE5FGU
- Director (2yr):** Kevin M - KW5MOS
- Director (3yr):** Michael B - KF5KHS
- Field Day Committee:**
- Testing Committee:**
Rebekah M - K5RCM
- VE Team**
Rebekah M - K5RCM
- Public Relations Chairman**
Rebekah M - K5RCM
- Activities Chairman**
Rebekah M - K5RCM
- Ragchew Editor**
Doug S - KE5CDK

Address Book

- Staff@nflarc.org - Is sent to pres, vp, sec, tres, & board
- members@nflarc.org - Is sent to all members on the mailing list
- vec@nflarc.org - Is sent to our VEC's
- ve@nflarc.org - Is sent to the VE team
- ares@nflarc.org - Is sent to pres, vp, sec, tres,
- fd@nflarc.org - Is sent to pres, vp, sec, tres,
- ragchew@nflarc.org - is sent to the newsletter editor

If you have Questions, Comments, Links, Submissions, Corrections, Etc.

Send them to ragchew@nflarc.org